

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/657,087 Confirmation No.: 9855  
Applicant : HEINO, et al.  
Filed : September 9, 2003  
Title : BIOABSORBABLE BAND SYSTEM  
Art Unit : 3775  
Examiner : Jay R. Sigler

**Mail Stop AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 23313-1450

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
GROUP 3775**

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Sir:

In response to the Final Rejection of April 14, 2009, for which a response is due by July 14, 2009 with no extension of time, Applicants submit the following amendment and respectfully request reconsideration.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 6.

**Remarks** begin on page 7.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 10.